

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mapping tool graphical user interface, comprising:
 - a source screen region adapted to display a graphical representation of a source object comprising a plurality of source nodes;
 - a target screen region adapted to display a graphical representation of a target object comprising a plurality of target nodes; and
 - a mapping screen region adapted to allow a user to create a mapping between the graphical representation of the source object and the graphical representation of the target object using at least one of (1) an auto-linking indicia, (2) a function object adapted to call out to a programming artifact, and (3) a function object adapted to provide table looping such that data is generated and mapped into a target document.
2. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the source screen region includes a source tree structure having a hierarchical representation of the source nodes, and the target screen region includes a target tree structure having a hierarchical representation of the target nodes, wherein the auto-linking indicia provides an association between one of the source nodes and one of the target nodes, and mappings between source and target nodes are automatically provided between the source and target hierarchies.
3. The user interface of claim 2, wherein after the auto-linking indicia is provided between one of the source nodes and one of the target nodes, automatic linking between the source and target nodes is performed.
4. The user interface of claim 2, wherein the mappings between source and target nodes are based on source and target node names.
5. The user interface of claim 2, wherein the mappings between source and target nodes are based on their locations within the respective hierarchies.

6. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the programming artifact comprises custom programming logic.
7. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the programming artifact comprises custom Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations (XSLT).
8. The user interface of claim 7, wherein the custom XSLT is supported in a parameterized call template.
9. The user interface of claim 7, wherein the custom XSLT is supported in a raw form.
10. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the table looping is based on a populated grid.
11. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the auto-linking indicia comprises a line in the mapping screen region between one of the source nodes and one of the target nodes.
12. The user interface of claim 1, wherein one of the source and target objects is one of a schema, a spreadsheet, a document, and a database.
13. In a mapping tool graphical user interface, a method of creating a mapping, comprising:
 - displaying a graphical representation of a source object in a source screen region, the source object comprising a plurality of source nodes;
 - displaying a graphical representation of a target object in a target screen region, the target object comprising a plurality of target nodes;
 - creating a mapping between the graphical representation of the source object and the graphical representation of the target object in a mapping screen region by selecting and using at least one of (1) an auto-linking indicia, (2) a function object adapted to call out to a programming artifact, and (3) a function object adapted to provide table looping such that data is generated and mapped into a target document; and
 - displaying the mapping in the mapping screen region.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising selecting one of the source nodes and one of the target nodes, wherein the source screen region includes a source tree structure having a hierarchical representation of the source nodes, and the target screen region
5 includes a target tree structure having a hierarchical representation of the target nodes, wherein the auto-linking indicia provides an association between one of the source nodes and one of the target nodes, and mappings between source and target nodes are automatically provided between the source and target hierarchies associated with the selected source node and selected target node.

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15. The method of claim 14, further comprising automatic linking between the source and target nodes after receiving the auto-linking indicia between the selected source node and the selected target node.

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16. The method of claim 14, wherein the mappings between source and target nodes are based on source and target node names.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the mappings between source and target nodes are based on their locations within the respective hierarchies.

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18. The method of claim 13, wherein the programming artifact comprises custom programming logic.

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19. The method of claim 13, wherein the programming artifact comprises custom Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations (XSLT).

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the custom XSLT is supported in a parameterized call template.

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21. The method of claim 19, wherein the custom XSLT is supported in a raw form.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the table looping is based on a populated grid.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the auto-linking indicia comprises a line in the mapping screen region between one of the source nodes and one of the target nodes.

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24. The method of claim 13, wherein one of the source and target objects is one of a schema, a spreadsheet, a document, and a database.